Some REASONS

Why the Aldermen ſhould not be intruſted with the Relief which the Parliament ſhall think fit to give the Orphans.

THE Aldermen ſay in their Prints, and by their Council,

I. That about the beginning of the *Scotch* Troubles, there was due to the City in deſperate Debts Thirty thouſand Pound——And they Advanced to, and Expended for King *Charles* the Firſt about Forty thouſand Pound, and ſo became indebted Seventy ——

II. That the Fire deſtroyed their Revenue—— And the *Quo Warranto* their Being.

III. That by their Care to get in Debts, and improve their Revenue, they paid all 55 Pound Orphans off, with Ten thouſand ſix hundred ſeventy three Pound, two Shillings, eight Pence.

IV. That the Debt which hath neither been Incurr'd, nor Augmented, by the Default, Negligence, or Expence of the preſent Aldermen, they have been and are unceſſant in their Endeavours to make the utmoſt improvement of all belongs to the City for the Orphans benefit.

V. That the transferring of the Truſt will deſtroy their Charities——And both at home and abroad be to the Diſreputation of the Capital City of this Kingdom, in whoſe Support and Welfare the whole Nation is much concerned.

The Orphans Anſwer, and Say,

That Truſts are Sacred, and the Breakers of them ſeverely Puniſhed not only by the Laws of God, and *England*, but in all Chriſtian Governments, nay among Pagans alſo—— That the Chamber of the City was the Depoſitory of the Relicts of each Orphan's Father; And after their reſpective Minorities they were delivered out in Specie—— That the not hiding each Orphan's Talent in their proper Napkin was the Original Sin of *Guild-hall*.

To the Firſt therefore,——The breaking of Bulk was a deſperate Wickedneſs, and juſtly might be puniſhed with making the Money lent deſperate; But alas the Aldermens own Books ſhew it, That they lent 60000 *l.* of their Orphans Portions among themſelves, and inſtead of ſuing the Bonds, delivered them up—Nay 149730 *l.* of their Portions was lent among their Creatures, but not one Penny of it got back——— And to charge 40000 *l.* of this Debt on King *Charles* the Firſt, is a moſt impudent Falſhood; the City indeed lent his Father Money, But triumphing over the Son's Neceſſities they would not lend him 6 *d.* no not upon the Mortgage of any of the Crown Lands: Inſomuch that they forced him to ſell them many Scores of Mannors, and they paid him with his Father's Scores, with Tallies they bought in at prodigious Undervalues, and with inconſiderable Summs of preſent Money; And they have ſeveral Years ſince received thereby 153776 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.* and much more they may at this Day receive thereby alſo if they pleaſe. And however theſe Gentlemen are now undeſir'd, and without any Orphans complaining for Vacating all Contracts made with them, and by the ſame Law may Vacate all Contracts for the Actions of the *Eaſt-India*, or any other Company, And all late Dealings in Stock-jobbing, yet they perhaps would not like the Crowns reſuming thoſe Mannors on their Accounting for what received, and payment of their Principal and Intereſt.

II. To Charge the Fire with ruining their Revenues is not only a Miſtake, but Ingratitude; Nay, a moſt pregnant Argument againſt the Parliaments truſting them again. How great a part of the City was not burnt? What vaſt Summs did they raiſe out of that part by reaſon of the Fire? They received of the Parliaments Bounty Impoſitions upon *Coles*, and paid out 520037 *l.* 15 *s.* 2 *d.* but not the third part thereof according to their Truſt, and much to the Orphans prejudice— And their Eſtate in Reverſion will be above 50000 *l. per Annum.* Neither can they with juſtice ſay, That the *Quo Warranto* deſtroyed their Being; their whole Revenue was then managed by Truſtees to their Advantage.

III. The 10673 *l.* 2 *s.* 8 *d.* which paid off the 55 *l.* Orphans, was not got in by their Care and Improving, as they [illegible] by Commiſſion from King *James*

To the First therefore,—— The breaking of Bulk was a desperate Wickedness, and justly might be punished with making the Money lent desperate; But alas the Aldermens own Books shew it, That they lent 60000 *l.* of their Orphans Portions among themselves, and instead of suing the Bonds, delivered them up—Nay 149730 *l.* of their Portions was lent among their Creatures, but not one Penny of it got back——— And to charge 40000 *l.* of this Debt on King *Charles* the First, is a most impudent Falshood; the City indeed lent his Father Money, But triumphing over the Son's Necessities they would not lend him 6 *d.* no not upon the Mortgage of any of the Crown Lands: Insomuch that they forced him to sell them many Scores of Mannors, and they paid him with his Father's Scores, with Tallies they bought in at prodigious Undervalues, and with inconsiderable Summs of present Money; And they have several Years since received thereby 153776 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.* and much more they may at this Day receive thereby also if they please. And however these Gentlemen are now undesir'd, and without any Orphans complaining for Vacating all Contracts made with them, and by the same Law may Vacate all Contracts for the Actions of the *East-India*, or any other Company, And all late Dealings in Stock-jobbing, yet they perhaps would not like the Crowns resuming those Mannors on their Accounting for what received, and payment of their Principal and Interest.

II. To Charge the Fire with ruining their Revenues is not only a Mistake, but Ingratitude; Nay, a most pregnant Argument against the Parliaments trusting them again. How great a part of the City was not burnt? What vast Summs did they raise out of that part by reason of the Fire? They received of the Parliaments Bounty Impositions upon *Coles*, and paid out 520037 *l.* 15 *s.* 2 *d.* but not the third part thereof according to their Trust, and much to the Orphans prejudice— And their Estate in Reversion will be above 50000 *l. per Annum.* Neither can they with justice say, That the *Quo Warranto* destroyed their Being; their whole Revenue was then managed by Trustees to their Advantage.

III. The 10673 *l.* 2 *s.* 8 *d.* which paid off the 55 *l.* Orphans, was not got in by their Care and Improving, as they pretend, but by Commission from King *James*.

IV. Sir *William Pritchard*, Sir *John Wyldman*, and Five other of the present Aldermen, may justly say their Endeavours to improve for the Orphans benefit have been unceasant, But others have obstructed. And as 6996 *l.* 4 *s.* 8 *d.* hath been given from the Orphans to those who pretended to make Discoveries, but never brought in 6 *d.* So however some extol themselves, 'tis ready to be made out, That many of the Orphans might have been preserved had they not oppos'd it; And that Leases have been lately made Fraudulently, and at great Undervalues.

To the Last: The Charity and Rents their Revenues stand Charg'd with, however they are now Magnify'd, amount but to 237 *l.* 4 *s.* 5 *d. per Annum.* if their own Account of them delivered to the House of Commons be true. The proper Lands they stand Charged with are of much a greater value, and ought to Answer them. ——— And since for preserving their Credit they are unwilling to have the Trust, transferred from the Corporation, the Orphans submit, if your Honours so please, to have it vested in the Common Council, in no sort doubting but that they will redeem that Honour of the City, which their Oppressors have so scandalously impared through the whole Trading World, and that the Mercifulness within your St. *Stephens* Walls, will prevent the making the Sins of their Oppressing Guardians National.

Capt. *Tom*, in compassion to the Orphans hath offered, becoming their Solicitor, as looking upon himself to be the only Match for the Solicitor against them, but these poor Christians stand only to their Primitive Arms of Prayers and Tears, they pray God to multiply Pardons on Sir *Robert Clayton*, and turn his Heart toward them, and make him the Nursing Father of the City, and with Tears they beseech your Honours that his Solicitor may forthwith be call'd to Account for the vast Sums he hath received of the Orphans Moneys for opposing their Relief. And that the Extravagant Fees and Nightly Treats he gives for contriving to oppress the Starving Orphans may no longer be paid out of the Chamber. And since none of the ways and means your Wisdoms have Ordered for their Relief can please. Nay since the poor Orphans in their attending on your Charitableness are threatned even at your Doors, that should your Honours pass the Bill, their Oppressors would stop it with the Lords, nay should their Lordships pass it likewise, they would prevent the Royal Assent to't, they with Sighs which cannot be utter'd, implore your preventing their being longer debarr'd of the benefit of the Law against their Inexorable Debtors, which hitherto hath not been deny'd to any other English Subjects.